SUBJECT No. 36.

Medical aid to Panchamas

Mr. P. Murugesam Pillai, Adi Dravida Abhivriddhi Sangham, Bangalore.

Mr. Murugesam Pillai.—Five beds in District Medical institutions and two beds in Maternity hospitals may be reserved for the exclusive treatment of patients belonging to depressed classes. Some special conveniences should be provided for the Panchamas.

Senior Surgeon.—It is not made out that patients belonging to the depressed classes are placed at a disadvantage as compared with other patients in respect of admission and treatment in medical institutions. No distinction has ever been shown to the depressed and non-depressed classes in the medical institutions of the State. It has been a case of first come, first served and the same principle will always be maintained to the benefit of the poor and needy without distinction of caste, colour or creed. It is obviously not possible to refuse to accommodate a patient of the non-depressed classes in a vacant bed in anticipation of an application for the same from a member of the depressed classes.

Offg. Second Member of Council.—Are there any cases in which admission has been refused? If beds are reserved for Panchamas, it will mean that they could not be given to others even when they are vacant.

Mr. M. Subbiah.—Supposing I take a patient to the hospital and a Panchama patient also comes there at the time, who will be preferred?

Offg. Second Member of Council.—In such cases, some discretion should be given to the officer in charge. If there have been any cases of refusal of Panchama patients when there was room, they may be brought to the notice of the Senior Surgeon.

SUBJECT No. 37.

Wards for in-patients in Taluk Headquarters.

Mr. K. T. Devappa, Tirthahalli Taluk.

Member from Nelamangala Taluk.—Patients experience considerable difficulty at taluk headquarters for want of suitable ward accommodation in the hospitals. Arrangements may be made to attach wards for in-patients to dispensaries at taluk headquarters.

Offg. Second Member of Council.—The general policy is that the local bodies should give suitable contributions for such work. If they are prepared to do this, the matter will receive the consideration of Government.